

Bruce



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Ronald W. Cates
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Governor

August 13, 2002

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SUPERFUND DIVISION

United Methodist Church of Herculaneum
c/o Joyce Newman
3359 Ketha Circle
Festus, MO 63028

Subject: Recent heavy metal analysis results from the United Methodist Church, Herculaneum, Missouri.

Dear Ms. Newman:

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has recently been provided copies of the above subject document in order to determine if the levels of heavy metals in the church pose a risk to persons utilizing the building. Our review of the data indicate that except for two samples (Office north window sill) #1229G, and (Vestibule rug floor) #1229J, all the results are below a level of health concern predicated on a number of factors explained below.

Clean-up levels for residential properties administered through funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are 250 micrograms of lead per square foot of surface area ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$) for windowsills and $40\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for floors. These numbers were not derived solely based on health concerns, but we generally feel that if levels for windowsills and floors are below these levels, those areas do not pose any significant risk. This is especially true in a situation such as the church because it is not a residence, and people do not spend the time or engage in the activities they would if it was a residence.

The other metals that were analyzed (arsenic, cadmium, and nickel) have not had clean up levels determined like those for lead, but they were generally very low. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) believes that the non-residential type of exposures likely to occur in the church would not present any significant health risk from these heavy metals either.

The vestibule rug has been removed, so that is no longer a possible exposure point.

Finally, the one sample that was above the HUD clean-up level and has not been remediated is not in a location in which we would expect any type of residential activities to occur, such as a child coming into daily contact with the windowsill and getting the lead from their hands to their mouths.

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Superfund

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Therefore, DHSS believes that the United Methodist Church of Herculaneum does not present a significant health risk to persons using the church facilities, because even though there are some low levels of heavy metal contamination present, the non-residential ways the church is used reduces the actual exposure to those metals to a level below health concern.

On a related issue, DHSS is planning to help the church's cleaning and maintenance staff keep the heavy metal levels low by providing a training session to explain and demonstrate the *best cleaning practices* in the near future.

If you have further questions or concerns please contact Gale Carlson or Lorena Anderson at (800) 392-0272 or (573) 751-6160. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyn C. Konstant" followed by a stylized flourish or initials.

Lyn C. Konstant, Interim Director
Section for Environmental Public Health

LCK:GMC:amh

cc: Minister, United Methodist Church of Herculaneum
Gene Gunn, EPA
Dave Mosby, DNR
Denise Jordan-Izaguirre, ATSDR
Dennis Diehl, Jefferson County Health Dept
Scott Clardy, MDHSS
Lorena Anderson